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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

RAIL SPUR AND ASSOCIATED TOWERS  
NEAR SEMIPALATINSK, USSR



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HTA/M-18/58

29 SEPTEMBER 1958

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25X1D A rail spur appears on [REDACTED] photography at 50°35'N/79°23'E, in the vicinity of Kol Basy, USSR, 36 nautical miles west-northwest of Semipalatinsk and approximately seven nautical miles east-southeast of Chagan. It is located on the newly constructed rail line, described in HTA/B-3/58, that follows the south side of the Irtysh river between Semipalatinsk and Chagan. In the same locality there are two 40-foot

25X9

[REDACTED]

The rail spur, which is approximately 6,240 feet long, swings south from the main line in a "U" configuration with a turning radius of approximately 1,180 feet (figure 2). A second spur, approximately 1,500 feet long, branches off the first at a point 3,600 feet from the main line, and parallels the main spur at a separation distance of 110 feet. The only structures along the spur tracks are two probable earth walls or bunkers, one on each side of the track near the junction of the two spurs. Each of these structures measures [REDACTED] and is oriented so that its longitudinal axis is perpendicular to the alignment of the main spur. Beyond the probable earth walls the main spur continues in a straight line for 2,640 feet. Approximately 640 feet north from the end of the main spur there is a tower, 40 feet high. A possible buried cable extends from the tower to the main rail line.

25X1D

North of the main line and extending from a point approximately 5,420 feet east of its junction with the main spur, a graded railroad bed has been constructed eastward for a distance of 7,420 feet (figure 1). The alignment of this roadbed is straight, except for a slight turn which begins 480 feet from its end. Another 40-foot tower is situated on or at

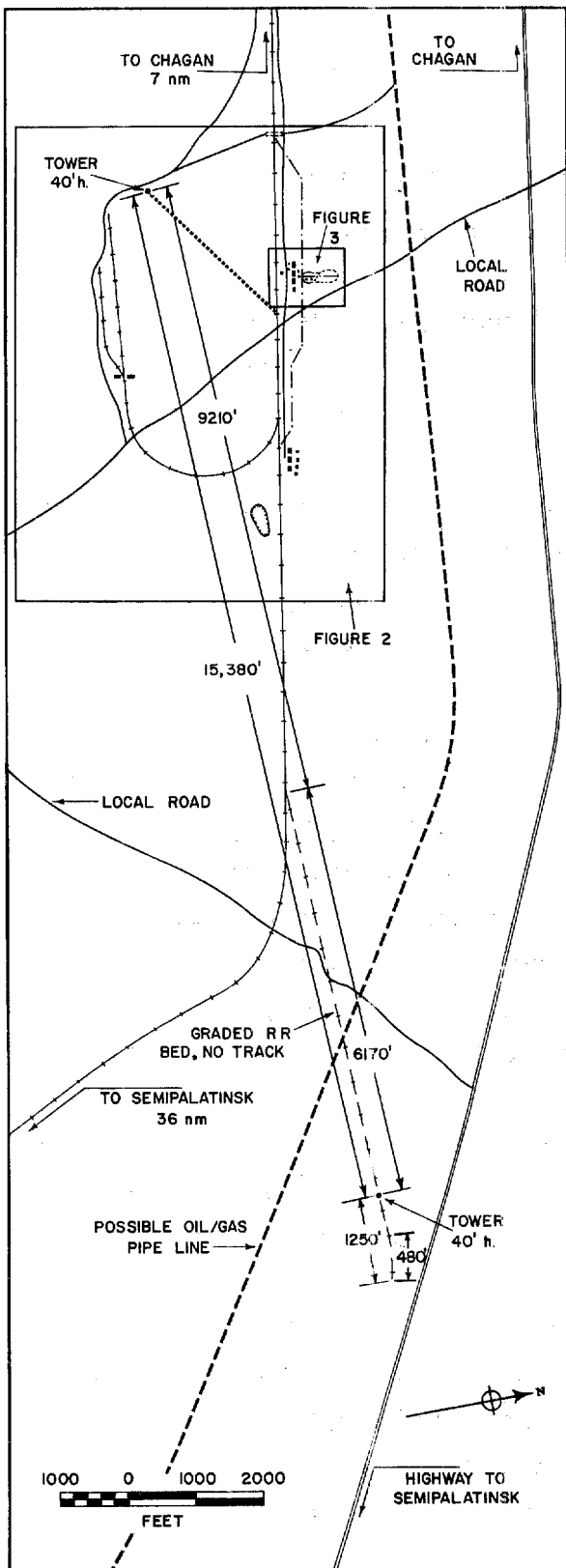
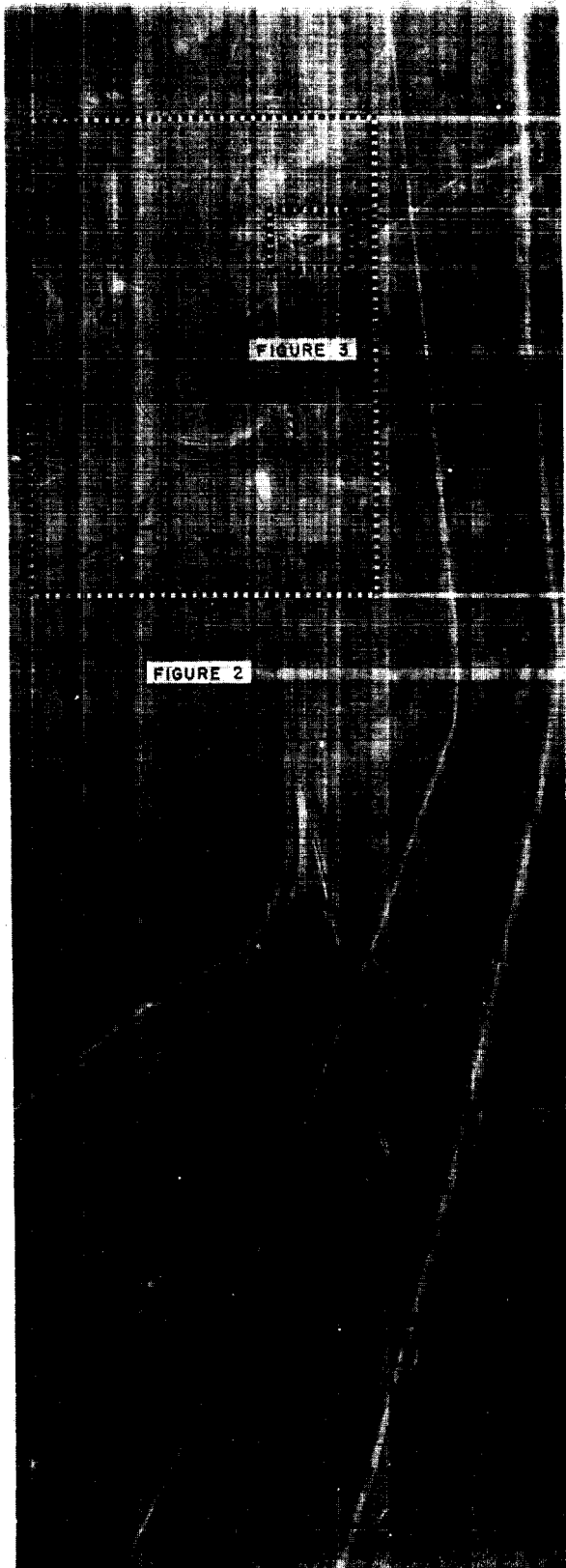


Figure 1



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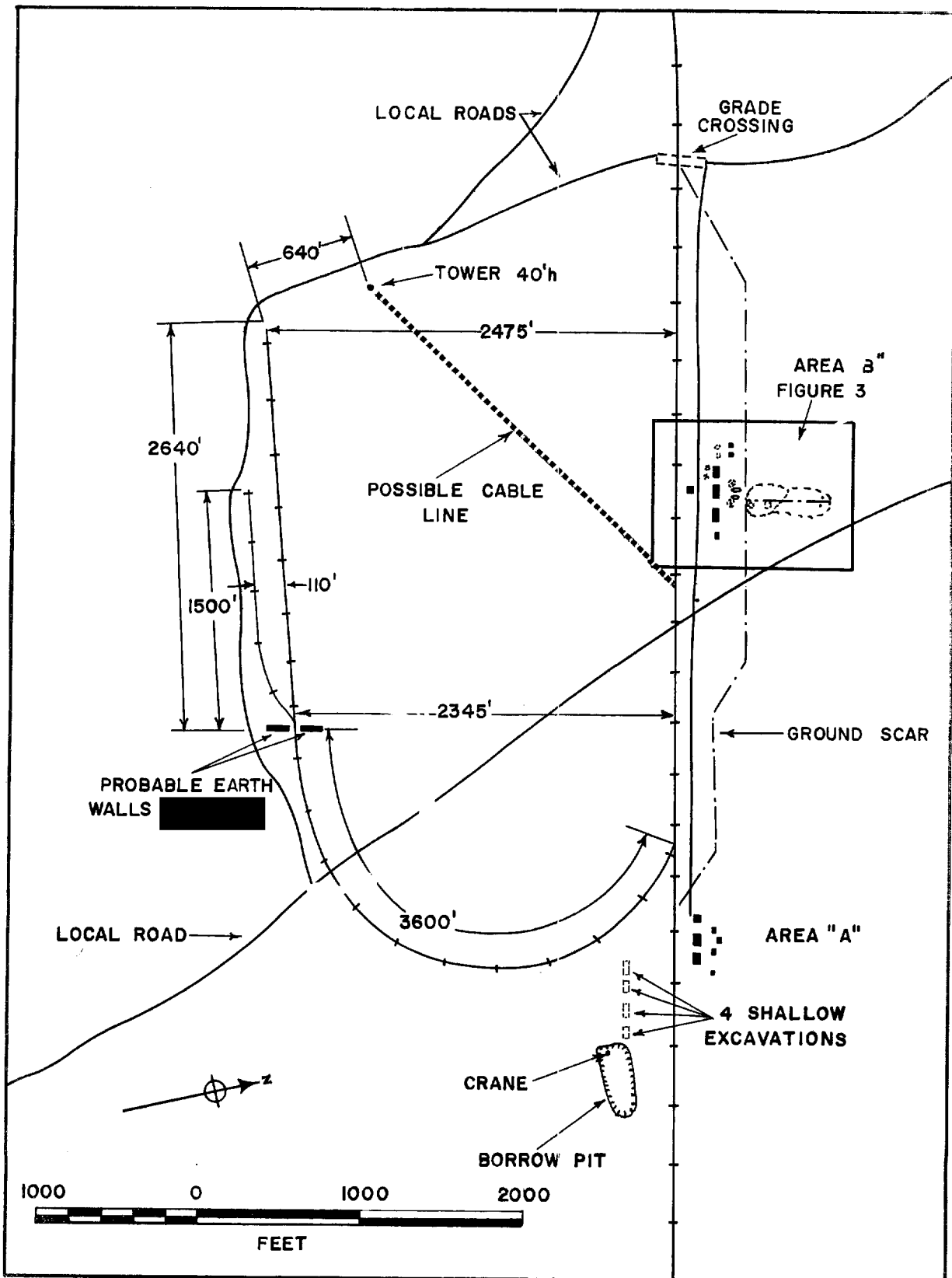


Figure 2

the edge of the roadbed, at a point 6,170 feet from the main line. This tower and the one near the north end of the rail spur are 15,380 feet apart, and they are in direct alignment with the railroad bed.

Opposite the spur, on the north side of the main rail line, are two areas of interest, designated "A" and "B", approximately 2,700 feet apart (figure 2). In Area "A" there are seven one-story frame buildings with a total floor space of 10,500 square feet. The purpose of this group of buildings has not been determined. A short distance from Area "A", on the opposite side of the main rail line, there are four shallow excavations. Immediately to the east is an irregularly-shaped borrow pit

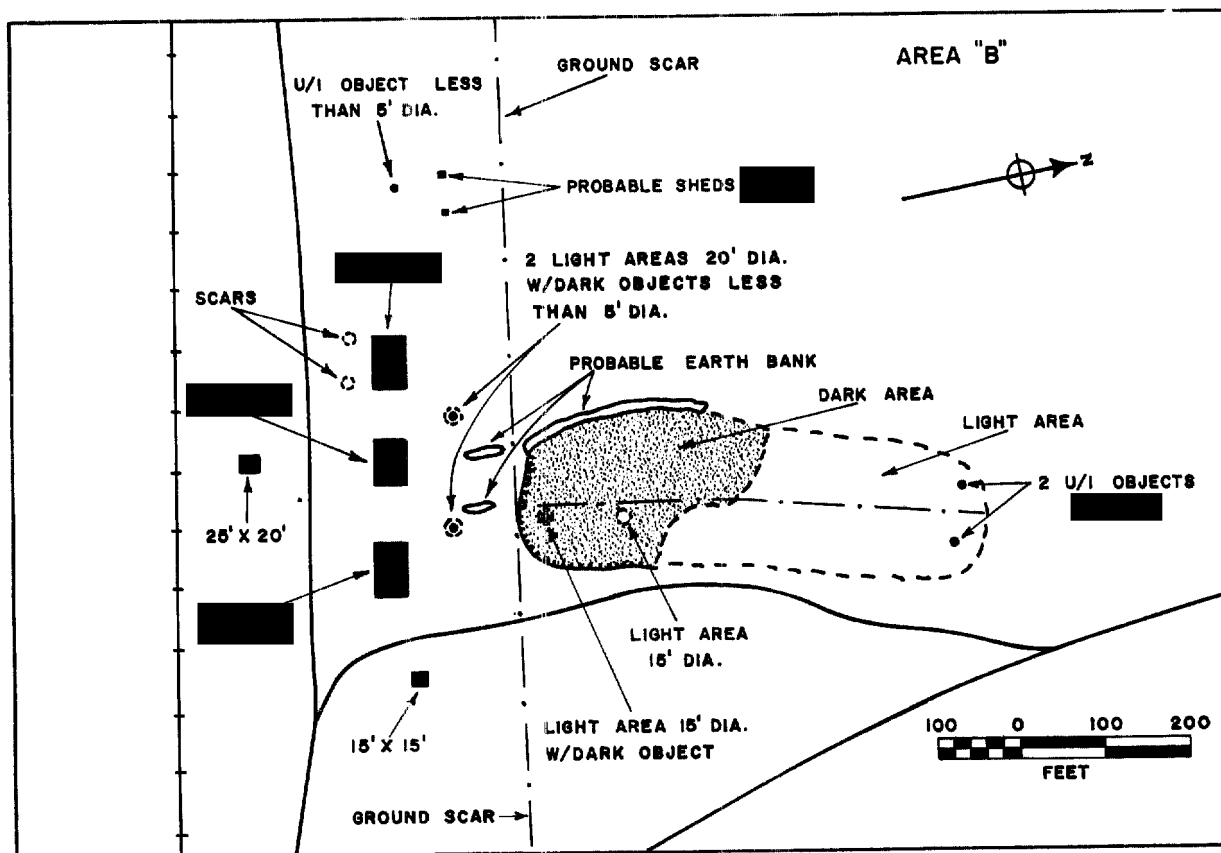


Figure 3



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10 or 15 feet deep, apparently used in constructing the roadbed. A probable 25-foot crane is located near the southwest corner of the excavation. From Area "A" a ground scar extends in the same general direction as the main line track to a grade crossing west of Area "B".

Area "B" has three large one-and-one-half-story buildings with hip roofs and dormers, two single-story buildings, and two probable sheds (figure 3). Several other small objects or structures of possible significance are annotated on figure 3. North of the buildings there is a roughly rectangular area which measures approximately 560 x 190 feet. The northern portion of this area appears light in tone as a result of earth grading. The portion nearer the buildings has a dark, stained appearance. Ground scars in Area "B" indicate more recent construction activity than that in Area "A".

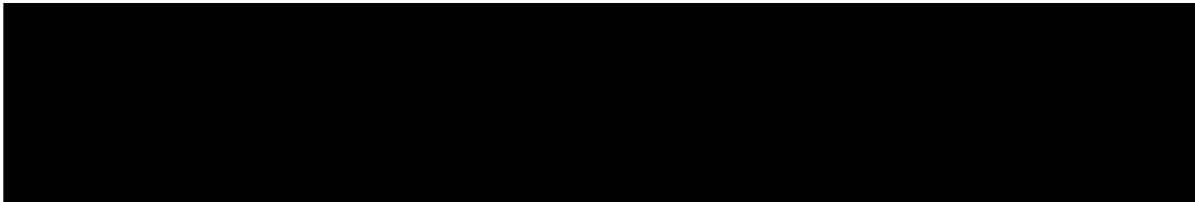
No security measures such as fencing had been undertaken at the time of photography, and no support facility is evident in the vicinity. Chagan, approximately seven nautical miles to the west-northwest, is the support base for rail-served Dolan airfield, which is approximately 10 nautical miles west of the spur. However, neither the airfield or Chagan appear to be associated with the rail spur and towers.

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REQUIREMENT: Prepared in partial answer to RR/HTA/E/R8/58  
requesting an analysis of suspected possible ICBM railroad  
launching sites.

25X1D



MAP DATA:

USAF Pilotage Chart 239A, scale 1:500,000. (U)

REFERENCE:

CIA. HTA/B-10/58 "Possible Missile Launching Site 36 Nautical  
Miles WNW of Semipalatinsk," 4 Feb 58 (TSC)

COORDINATES:

50°35' N/79°23' E

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